

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-02

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S/S - PSBRIDGES

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P 042311Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4

NO. 1

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DEPUTY SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONS FROM PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4:

(1) DEPT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON'S
VISIT TO MANILA AUGUST 5-7 AND, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, SAID
DEPSEC WOULD REVIEW WITH PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PROGRESS IN
BASE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE AND REAFFIRM USG
INTEREST IN EARLY SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION.

(2) KHARCHENKO CASE -- WE HAVE NOT REPLIED TO SOVIET NOTE
OF JULY 29. WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED
IN NOTE AND MOSCOW LITERARY GAZETTE ARTICLE EXCEPT TO SAY
THAT WE OBSERVE THAT OFFICIAL PROTEST DOES NOT ALLEGE
THREAT AGAINST KHARCHENKO, AS IS CASE IN MAGAZINE ARTICLE.

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(3) CSCE -- DEPY SPOKESMAN TOOK QUESTION ON WHETHER DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON SOVIET COMPLIANCE DURING FIRST YEAR OF CSCE ACCORD ((FYI: ANSWER IS IN FORM OF LENGTHY GUIDANCE PREPARED ON THIS SUBJECT LAST WEEK)).

(4) CHRISTIAN CITIZENS OF SOVIET UNION -- DEPY SPOKESMAN ALSO TOOK QUESTION ON PROPOSAL BY CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN REFERENCE POSSIBLE USG MEASURES TO AID CHRISTIAN CITIZENS OF SOVIET UNION WHO WERE "UNDER ATTACK."

(5) EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO PRC -- CHINESE HAVE POLITELY SAID THAT THEY DO NOT REQUIRE OUR ASSISTANCE. THEY HAVE MADE GENERAL STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT REGARDING ALL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THEY ARE GRATEFUL FOR OFFER BUT DO NOT REQUIRE OUR ASSISTANCE. WE DRAW NO RPT NO POLITICAL INFERENCES FROM THIS REFUSAL.

(6) PRC/TAIWAN -- DEPY SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON NYTIMES ASSERTION THAT USG IS BUILDING ROC FORCES ON TAIWAN TO POINT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY WHICH WOULD PERMIT US POLITICALLY TO PURSUE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC. DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT CONCEPT OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS LONG-STANDING ONE WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS AND IS NOT RPT NOT RELATED SOLELY TO ROC. IT IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR GENERAL POLICY OF ENCOURAGING GREATER SELF RELIANCE AMONG COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE DEFENSE RELATIONS. IT WOULD BE INACCURATE, THEREFORE, TO DRAW CONCLUSION STATED IN QUESTION.

REGARDING DEPARTMENT'S VIEW OF POSSIBLE INCREASED THREAT OF AMPHIBIOUS ATTACK FROM MAINLAND, DEPY SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT REGARDING INCREASED THREAT TO ROC FROM PRC AS WELL AS ANY OTHER DETAILED QUESTIONS REGARDING SALES OR ARMS PROGRAMS TO ROC. DEPY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ESSENTIAL THEME OF USG POLICY TOWARD CHINA WAS MOST RECENTLY SET FORTH IN SECRETARY'S SEATTLE SPEECH IN CAREFUL, DELIBERATE STATEMENT. DEPY SPOKESMAN REJECTED ASSERTION THAT USG ARMS SALES PROGRAM IS AIMED AT FACILITATING EARLY ABROGATION OF DEFENSE TREATY WITH TAIWAN AND UNDERLINED

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THAT US HAS HAD MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WITH ROC FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND THAT TREATY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

(7) LAST CONTACT WITH PLO -- DO NOT KNOW WHEN LAST CONTACT WAS BUT CERTAIN IT WAS ON SUBJECT OF SECURITY FOR OUR PEOPLE IN BEIRUT. WE DO NOT KEEP LOG OF THESE LOW-LEVEL CONTACTS. WE HAVE GONE INTO SOME DETAIL ON HOW THESE CONTACTS CAME ABOUT, NECESSITY FOR THEM, AND THEIR

UTILITY. DISCUSSIONS CONCERN SECURITY OF OUR PEOPLE AND EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. NOT AWARE OF HIGHEST LEVEL WITHIN PLO THE EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS. OUR COMMENTS ON SUBJECT OF CONTACTS WITH PLO WERE SET OUT IN DETAIL IN 10-PART ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RAISED, AND DISTRIBUTED LAST MONDAY.

(8) TAL ZA'ATAR EVACUATION -- US PLAYED NO ROLE IN MEDICAL EVACUATION FROM PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP.

(8) ACTIVITIES OF CHARGE HUNT -- AS WAS HIS PREDECESSOR, HUNT IS IN CONTACT WITH VARIOUS LEBANESE PARTIES. US IS DOING WHAT IS POSSIBLE, WITHIN VERY LIMITED CONTEXT, TO HELP FIND SOLUTION IN LEBANON. NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO DETAILS OF HOW THIS IS BEING DONE. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR WHO LEBANESE PARTIES ARE AND WHAT ROLE OF OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT IS.

(9) WOMEN'S CLASS ACTION SUIT -- QUESTION WAS TAKEN REGARDING REPORTED CLASS ACTION SUIT BY GROUP OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT CHARGING SECRETARY AND DEPARTMENT WITH CONSISTENT FAILURE TO PROMOTE WOMEN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE193373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FZBROWN:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-1240
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760885/aaaacwul.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4 NO. 1 FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DEPUTY SPOKESMAN'S
RESPONS
TAGS: SOPN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006